UNV

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United Nations Volunteers

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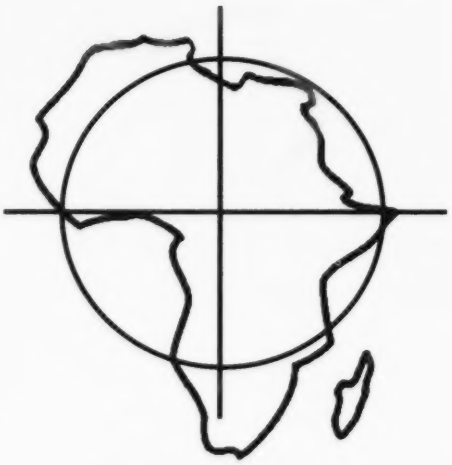
EDITORIAL

SOMETHING NEW FROM AFRICA

When the phrase "something new from Africa" went into the language of the ancient Romans, it was because Africa never ceased to surprise them - usually with challenges to their corn supplies or to their rule in the continent. In today's UNV, Africa is not so much throwing up surprises as yielding some of the most promising new directions for the programme.



Perhaps this is only as it should be: after all, 44 African countries are host to half of all UNVs. But from the Central African Republic in francophone Africa to Malawi and Uganda amongst the English-speaking nations, small business entrepreneurship is now a recurring theme, drawing the informal sector more into the mainstream development process. From The Gambia in the West to Lesotho in the South new formulae are appearing for teaming UNV specialists and DDS field workers together, combining technical competence and grassroots participation as never before.

In Namibia UNV is already moving forward from the classical filling of health and education vacancies to programmed approaches in water and sanitation, maternal and child health, population and family planning, environment and sustainable development. The people-centredness so fundamental an element of volunteer service will be key to the help which UNV aims to bring in numerous countries to those combatting the HIV and AIDS pandemic and fighting to reduce its adverse impact on the development process.

Moving to more strategic approaches, UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, M. Pierre-Claver Damiba, sees it as a priority to build up national capacity in preparing baseline data, statistics and economic analysis, and forecasts the need for UNV trainers in these areas. He has also proposed assignments with the purpose of liaison and promoting the use of UNVs in African regional projects and institutions in the course of the forthcoming Fifth UNDP Funding Cycle.

As Africa's Ministers of Planning come together for discussions with UNDP in Windhoek, we dedicate this issue of "UNVNews" to a continent which is more than ever seized of the reality that its Governments and peoples have the prime responsibility for their development, and that the obstacles with which they have to contend, whether of their own or of others' making, can best be overcome by drawing on the traditional values of family and community solidarity in African society. One thousand UNVs stand shoulder to shoulder with Africa in this, while more than 800 African UNVs testify to a wider solidarity, in right now serving countries other than their own.

EDITORIAL

DU NOUVEAU EN AFRIQUE

La phrase "du nouveau en Afrique" devint expression commune dans le langage de la Rome antique du fait que l'Afrique ne cessait de les surprendre. En effet, les Africains défiaient les Romains par leurs pouvoirs économique et politique. L'Afrique aujourd'hui réserve des surprises d'une autre nature en donnant quelques unes des orientations les plus prometteuses au programme des VNU. 44 pays africains accueillent la plus grande partie des Spécialistes VNU. De la République centrafricaine en Afrique francophone au Malawi en Afrique anglophone, des petites entreprises commerciales s'épanouissent, entraînant le secteur informel dans le sillage du processus du développement. De la

Gambie à l'ouest au Lesotho au sud, de nouvelles formules apparaissent telles que l'association de Spécialistes VNU et d'animateurs VNU DDS, combinant ainsi et, pour la première fois, les compétences techniques et la participation communautaire. En Namibie, le programme des VNU ne pourvoit plus uniquement des postes traditionnels dans la santé et l'éducation et se concentre désormais sur des programmes plus adaptés dans les domaines de l'eau et de l'assainissement, de la santé maternelle et infantile, de la planification familiale, de l'environnement et du développement durable.

Ce développement humain si cher au service volontaire sera l'élément clé de l'aide que le programme des VNU se propose d'apporter à de nombreux pays, notamment à ceux qui luttent contre le SIDA afin de réduire les effets négatifs de ce fléau sur le développement.

En ce qui concerne les approches plus stratégiques, l'Assistant de l'Administrateur du PNUD et Directeur général pour l'Afrique, M. Pierre-Claver Damiba, estime qu'il faut recourir au potentiel national dans la quête des données de base, des statistiques et analyses économiques; il prévoit la nécessité d'utiliser des Spécialistes VNU Formateurs dans ces domaines. Il a également proposé que des affectations soient créées en vue de coordonner et de promouvoir l'emploi des Spécialistes VNU au sein de projets régionaux et d'institutions africaines au cours du Cinquième cycle de financement du PNUD.

Alors que les Ministres africains de la planification entament des discussions avec le PNUD à Windhoek, nous sommes heureux de consacrer ce numéro du Bulletin VNU à ce continent qui, plus que jamais, réalise que ce sont ses gouvernements et ses peuples qui détiennent la responsabilité de leur propre développement, et que, pour surmonter les obstacles, ils doivent puiser dans les valeurs traditionnelles de la famille et de la solidarité communautaire de la société africaine. Un millier de Spécialistes VNU unissent leurs efforts avec les africains afin que cette entreprise se réalise. De plus, le fait que quelque 800 Spécialistes VNU d'origine africaine travaillent maintenant aux quatre coins du monde reflète bien cet esprit de solidarité. ( )

EDITORIAL

NOTICIAS NUEVAS DEL AFRICA

Cuando la expresión: "noticias nuevas del Africa" se hizo común en el lenguaje de los romanos fue debido a que este continente nunca cesó de sorprenderles.

En efecto, los africanos competían con los romanos con su discernimiento económico y político. Hoy en día, el Africa nos da otro tipo de sorpresas: brindando una nueva trayectoria al programa VNU. Quizás así es como debería ser. Después de todo, unos 44 países africanos acogen a más de la mitad de los Especialistas VNU. Desde la República Centroafricana francófona a los países de habla inglesa como Malawi y Uganda, las pequeñas empresas comerciales se expanden rápidamente, arrastrando más al sector no estructurado en el curso principal del proceso de desarrollo. Desde Gambia situada en el Oeste del Africa a Lesotho ubicado en el Sur, aparecen fórmulas nuevas como la de asociar a los Especialistas VNU con los promotores DDS sobre el terreno para que por primera vez combinen sus competencias técnicas y su participación en las comunidades. En Namibia, el programa VNU no sólo está concentrándose en llenar las vacantes tradicionales de salud e instrucción sino que también se dirigen a otros sectores como el agua potable y medios de saneamiento, cuidados maternales e infantiles, urbanismo y planificación familiar, medio ambiente y desarrollo durable.

Ese desarrollo humano, elemento tan fundamental en el servicio voluntariado será la llave a la ayuda que el programa VNU se propone ofrecer a numerosos países, sobre todo a aquellos que luchan contra el SIDA a fin de contrarrestar los efectos negativos que este factor adverso ocasiona al proceso de desarrollo.

En cuanto a métodos más estratégicos, el Administrador Asistente del PNUD y Director Regional para el Africa, Sr. Pierre-Claver Damiba considera que es necesario recurrir al potencial nacional para la preparación de datos básicos, estadísticas y análisis económicos y prever la necesidad de utilizar a los Especialistas VNU para que brinden capacitación en estas materias. También ha propuesto la creación de puestos con miras a coordinar y promover el uso de VNUs en el marco de proyectos regionales e instituciones africanas en el curso del próximo Quinto Ciclo de Financiación del PNUD .

Mientras se llevan a cabo las deliberaciones de los Ministros de Planificación en el Africa con el PNUD en Windhoek, dedicamos con mucho gusto la presente edición del Boletín VNU a un continente que está más que nunca consciente que son el Gobierno y su gente quien tiene la gran

READEX FICHE

responsabilidad de su desarrollo y que los obstáculos pueden ser franqueados salvaguardando los valores tradicionales de la familia y la solidaridad comunitaria de la sociedad africana. Unos mil Especialistas VNU dan la mano a los africanos, mientras que por otro lado otros 800 Especialistas VNU originarios del Africa dan testimonio de su amplia solidaridad al encontrarse actualmente prestando servicios en otras partes del mundo. ❍

3RD IGM TO BE HIGH SPOT OF 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has kindly agreed to be joint host to UNV's Third Inter-governmental Meeting. To be held in Kathmandu from 1-6 December, the Meeting will very appropriately close UNV's 20th Anniversary celebrations. UNV holds such a meeting every five years or so, to permit a more in-depth reflection on the progress of the programme, and with a wider range of participants, than is feasible in other fora. The first Meeting of this kind was held in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen in 1982 and the second in Maseru, Lesotho, in 1986.

We expect to have some 150 participants, from Governments of developing and industrialised countries, from U.N. Agencies, and volunteer-sending bodies. They will be joined in Kathmandu by some resource persons, keynote speakers, UN and other volunteers on the spot, and of course by Government and non-governmental officials of the country and former Nepali UNVs now working back in their own country.

The Meeting will have as its topic "United Nations Volunteers and People-Centred Development in the Nineties: the Role of Volunteer Development Workers and the U.N. System". Background papers will provide a retrospect and analysis of UNV over the two decades, a description of the various current "windows" of the UNV operation, and, looking to the future, further reflection on the community-based emphasis in volunteer work, with special focus on management of natural resources and the environment. The particular challenge presented by the environment will be the subject of an expert panel discussion on the final day of the Meeting.

A centre-piece of the week in Kathmandu will be the celebration of International Volunteer Day on Thursday 5th December. It is planned that the participants will break off to join in marking the day in various practical ways, based on volunteer and voluntary agency projects in the capital city and the surrounding valley. ❍

WILLIAM H. DRAPER III VISITS UNV HEADQUARTERS

UNDP's Administrator, Mr. William H. Draper III, again visited UNV, when in Geneva for the meeting of the UN's Economic and Social Council. He addressed the whole UNV staff on the decisions of the recent session of the Governing Council of UNDP. These included some relating to the way in which UNDP itself is structured.

From October 1st UNV's reporting relationship to the Administrator will be as an operation attached to the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation, of which the Assistant Administrator and Director is Mr. Gus Edgren. Previously UNV was attached to the Bureau for Resources and Special Activities. The new arrangement is expected to give a boost to UNV's work with UNDP on common themes such as poverty alleviation, HIV/AIDS and the environment, while Mr. Aldo Ajello, Assistant Administrator who will now head the new Bureau for External Relations, has pledged to continue full support! ❍

William H. Draper III, UNDP Administrator, addressing UNV staff at UNV Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

UNV IN THE LIBERIA EMERGENCY

by Terry Lewis
UNDRO Field Relief Co-ordinator
Monrovia, Liberia

(see also A UNV Programme With A Difference, by Michael J. Emery, page 7)

On 24 December 1989, a small band of guerillas seized government installations and villages in Nimba County of Northern Liberia. Attempts by the Government of Liberia to eject them proved futile. The rebel offensive gained momentum, causing thousands of Liberians to flee either as refugees to the neighbouring countries or as displaced persons within Liberia — a total population of 350,000 needing assistance! A request was made by the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Michael Heyn, in late January 1990 for assistance from UNDRO.

An assessment mission was carried out in Nimba County by UNDRO, with representatives from UNICEF, WFP and the Liberian Government in early February 1990. The results focused on food and medical assistance. The mission recommended the deployment of an UNDRO Field Relief Co-ordinator with, initially, three UNV Field Monitors.

Following a request by UNDRO to the British Government a prompt decision was made by them to fund the relief team. When I arrived in Geneva in late February for briefing and preparation for the operation, I was able to discuss in

Severely malnourished and dehydrated children in Monrovia, Liberia, waiting for food distribution.

UPDATE

The UN Secretary General issued an appeal in July 1991 for emergency humanitarian assistance for Liberia. The appeal contains among others the provision for programme support and management, the implementation of which will include the use of 15 UNV Specialists.

At the request of Mr. Ross Mountain, UNV prepared a draft project document under which the UNV assistance could be implemented. The document was forwarded to UNDP Monrovia at the end of July 1991.

In order to ensure early commencement of the project activities, UNV distributed a copy of the UN Secretary General's appeal to the major bilateral donors such as Japan, USA, United Kingdom, Canada, Finland, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Holland, and Germany soliciting funds to finance the UNV Specialists within the programme.

The future expansion of UNVs' work in Liberia will depend on the political situation in the country as the rehabilitation and reconstruction activities will not be undertaken until the political atmosphere is calm. Elections are scheduled in the last quarter of 1991.

In Liberia at the moment there are 9 UNV Food Aid Monitors working with WFP, and one UNV Emergency Relief Field Monitor working with OPS. They are, Monique See Rafidiarisoa, from Madagascar; Laoubara Nadjiadjim and Michael Sileman Adam, from Chad, Sidibe Kelefa, from Guinea; Mohammed Eakub Ali, from Bangladesh; Faustine Akamanyi Karioki Komwihangiro, from Tanzania; Bamekeh Ezekiel Parker, from Sierra Leone; Kisukye Francis Matsanga, from Uganda; Charles Gemenze, from Sudan; and Denise Ann Barrett, from the USA.

detail with UNV Headquarters the role foreseen for the UNVs and their recruitment.

Efforts were made to search the roster to find suitable personnel. UNV Headquarters arranged for UNDRO to interview Lina Sanque, from the Philippines, who had recently completed an assignment in Sudan as a UNV Agricultural and Agro-business Adviser and who was passing through Geneva. A second candidate, Patrick Mannion, from United Kingdom, had returned from Liberia and was suggested by VSO in London. The third team member was Jay Kumaratunga, from Sri Lanka, who had worked previously as a UNV in Yemen in the field of logistics and housing.

My arrival in early March immediately strengthened the UN position in the country and took considerable pressure off Michael Heyn. It provided a much-needed technical input, and strengthened co-ordination. The UNVs arrived a few weeks later. First, the plan was to deploy the UNDRO/UNV Field Monitors in three locations in Nimba County with a counterpart from the National Disaster Relief Commission (NDRC). This changed as in the following weeks the fighting quickly spread in Nimba County, causing large numbers of people to flee, many with only what they could carry. The UNDRO team organised relief convoys from Monrovia to deliver food as far forward as the situation allowed. The initial distribution plans were to use church and Red Cross groups to physically distribute food. As more international church organisations evacuated, it became apparent that UNDRO would have to become involved in distribution. A team of ten Liberians were recruited and trained, under the UNVs' supervision, for six weeks with ICRD, CRS and NDRC carrying registration and food distribution. Broadcasts were made on local radio stations to allow all factions to know where we were operating. Médecins sans frontières/Belgium provided health screening and medical care at the distribution points. The UNDRO/UNV team was strengthened in late April with four international teachers — they later became the four additional UNVs — who were already working in Liberia and funded by the Catholic Church. In Monrovia, weekly relief co-ordination meetings were held to monitor the overall situation, working on information provided by the UNVs in the field.

After the UN evacuation of Liberia to Senegal in the light of the worsened fighting in the area surrounding Monrovia, and the appointment of Michael Heyn as the Special Co-ordinator for the regional operation, I was attached to this new office in Conakry, Guinea, with the initial brief to monitor the situation in Liberia and prepare the UN Plan of Action. It was agreed to assist WFP by loaning the seven UNVs — four in Guinea and three in Sierra Leone. In November 1990, with the security slightly improving and enormous needs for food and medical assistance, the Secretary-General authorised a UN return to Monrovia.

After the restart of the relief operation and for the following three months, the 7-strong UNDRO/UNV team played a significant role in building an infrastructure to support and expand the relief operation to allow other UN agencies and NGOs to return. The operation was additionally strengthened with the arrival of a UNV Doctor and two UNV Water Engineers.

Against a background of uncertain

security and in a city where most of the infrastructure was destroyed, the main UNDRO areas of responsibility were the overall logistics, Sea and Airbridge Freetown-Monrovia, all base support in Monrovia, office and living accommodation, team food supplies, vehicles. Concurrent with this was considerable relief support to UNICEF and WFP and the NGOs: registration, monitoring food distribution, drug and supplementary food deliveries, warehousing, unloading relief ships. The use of UNVs under UNDRO to support the NGOs and UN agencies until they became established was very well received, and certainly the spirit of co-operation at field level was exceptional.

At the end of January 1991 UNDRO completed their involvement in Liberia, having started the UN relief operation and re-established the UN presence in Monrovia. The UN operation has since gained momentum; UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, and WHO are now assuming greater responsibility; the UNV team remained to continue the longer term relief operation under the supervision of the newly appointed UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Ross Mountain.

A UNV PROGRAMME WITH A DIFFERENCE

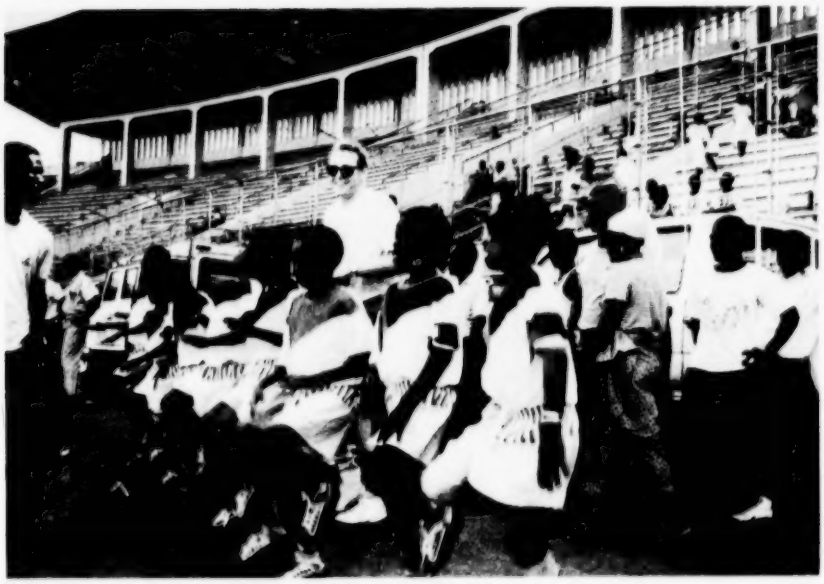
by Michael J. Emery
UNV Logistics Officer
Monrovia, Liberia

In November and December of 1990 a team of seven United Nations Volunteers were airlifted into Monrovia as part of an UNDRO project for Relief Assistance to Liberia. At that stage in the one year old Liberian Civil war, ECOMOG (the West African Peace Keeping Force sent to Monrovia to monitor a cease fire) was struggling to maintain order in Monrovia among Prince Johnson's Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia , the remnants of the late President Doe's Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). Monrovia was, and still is, surrounded by NPFL forces and as a consequence had been practically cut off from vital food aid.

Michael Emery standing on top of UN truck during one of the food delivery operations in Monrovia, Liberia.

Sean Devereux, from the United Kingdom, a UNV who had been working in Liberia before the war and recently with Liberian refugees in neighbouring Guinea, described the situation when he arrived with the advance team in the middle of November: "There was no water, electricity, industry, markets. Nothing! This previously vibrant society had been demolished. People were literally starving to death. Most of the palm trees had been chopped down as people reverted to eating the single palm cabbage that lies within the trunk of the tree. People were living in terror, not knowing where their next meal would come from. Everywhere people were begging. It was desperate."

Before long Sean was joined by UNVs Julia Kemp, from the United Kingdom, and myself, from Australia. Under the guidance of UNDRO's Terry Lewis and Special Co-ordinator Michael Heyn, we set about the whole process of re-establishing



Michael Emery warms up with an orphanage football team in Monrovia, Liberia.

United Nations activities in Liberia. The United Nations pulled out of Liberia at the end of May 1990 because of the sudden attack on the UN compound in which 30 Liberians who had sought refuge there were killed. The task of starting the relief efforts was made all the more difficult by the fact that the United Nations office had been completely ransacked and many of the national staff were refugees, missing or dead. In addition, there were no effective international communications and the security situation was still very delicate. At one stage Sean was arrested at gun point and detained in jail over-night and Michael and Julia tell stories of stray bullets bouncing off the roads and whizzing around their ears as they darted back to the UN accommodation in early December.

Many of the early activities of the UNV's were centered around establishing logistical support for an expanded operation, assisting in the streamlining of the general food distribution and identifying and targeting vulnerable groups in Monrovia.

I was placed in the role of Logistics Officer and was kept busy with a wide variety of tasks. First on the list was tracing abandoned UN vehicles. Other priorities included the burying of skeletons in the various killing fields across the city: It's a very sobering experience to see one hundred and twenty skulls looking at you, and you think that everyone of these people laughed, sang, cried, had families and now they are all dead for no reason. Some still had nappies on.

Sean and December arrivals Jay Kumaratunga, from Sri Lanka, and Philippos Papaphilippou, from Greece, assisted the World Food Programme in organising the general distribution of food. This entailed the unloading of boats, organising the transportation of the food to the distribution centres and the monitoring of the foodstuffs. "When I arrived the Port was unloading relief ships at about 150 tons of food per day. Conditions were appalling. The port had just been shelled and many of the warehouses were damaged. Skeletons littered the area and emaciated children grabbed dirty rice grains from the ground in desperation to have something small to eat. Now we operate at about 800 tons a day because of the incentive styled "Food for Work" that the UNDRO team developed. "The Freeport of Monrovia is now one of the best run ports in West Africa having almost the lowest losses on the West Coast," said Jay Kumaratunga with pride. He added: "Once the food is warehoused, it's then turned over to SELF (Special Emergency Life Food — a Liberian organisation founded on a voluntary basis) who are responsible for distributing the food. Sean and Philippos were instrumental in developing a house-to-house numbering system whereby each house is coded and the occupancy recorded by teams elected by the neighbourhood. This neighbourhood information is then computer-tabulated and handed to the transport office which is co-ordinated by Philippos. In the last distribution we delivered over 6,000 tons of food covering 168 neighbourhoods and 780,000 beneficiaries in just 17 days."

The more immediate problem of the vulnerable groups in Monrovia was tackled by Julia. She was responsible for identifying groups such as the handicapped, old and malnourished children, and then organising the distribution of supplementary food items to the centres housing them. By the middle of January 46,000 people each day were being fed under such programmes, many of whom were small children who had daily meals at supplementary feeding centres run by Médecins sans frontières/Belgium, AICF and UNICEF.

Two other UNV arrivals in December of 1990 were Towai Sha Zai, from Bangladesh, and Sumithra Ariyaratne, from Sri Lanka. Zai and Sumithra had been involved in long term UNDP Water Projects in Liberia before the war and hence were immediately put to work in rehabilitating Monrovia's water supply: Monrovia had had no town water since July 1990 when the main water supply plant was damaged in the fighting.

Largely through the efforts of Zai and Sumithra (working through UNICEF, OXFAM and ICRC), people in Monrovia now receive an average of 30-40 litres of safe water per day each. They have also ensured the delivery of treated water to 38 feeding centres and clinics; while the remaining institutions are being covered under an on-going well construction and rehabilitation programme.

Almost six months after the first UNVs arrived in Monrovia the situation is much improved. The people I have spoken with in both the United Nations and the Relief Agencies working in Monrovia, all agreed that the UNVs added an exciting and dynamic dimension to the United Nations personnel working in the emergency situation. The next challenge that now faces the Liberia-based UNVs is the the expansion of the relief operations into the rest of the country. ❍

Français

En décembre 1990 sept VNU sont arrivés à Monrovia dans le cadre d'un projet de l'UNDRO d'aide d'urgence au Libéria, frappé depuis un an par la guerre civile. Entourée par les forces du Front patriotique national libérien, la capitale est coupée du reste du pays, sans qu'aucunes vivres n'atteignent ses faubourgs.

Sean Devereux, du Royaume Uni, Volontaire des Nations Unies connaissant bien le Libéria pour y avoir travaillé avant la guerre, décrit la situation desespéré de la société libérienne autrefois si vivante: "Il n'y avait ni eau, ni électricité, ni marchés... rien! Les gens mourraient littéralement de faim. Tout le monde avait peur... Les gens mendiaient."

Sean Devereux est rejoint par Michael Emery, d'Australie, et Julia Kemp, du Royaume Uni, et tous trois, sous la supervision de Terry Lewis, responsable de l'UNDRO sur place, et de Michael Heyn, Coordonnateur spécial des opérations, ont rétabli les activités des Nations Unies au Libéria. A la fin de mai 1990, les Nations Unies se sont retirées du Libéria après l'attaque soudaine de la concession des Nations Unies où 30 libériens ont péri. De plus, les communications n'étaient pas efficaces et la sécurité ne pouvait être assurée. Sean s'est d'ailleurs fait arrêté et a passé une nuit en prison, et Michael et Julia parlent de balles qui leur sifflaient aux oreilles alors qu'ils rentraient chez eux un soir de décembre.

Les premières activités des Nations Unies au Libéria furent l'établissement d'un soutien logistique quant à la distribution de nourriture et l'identification des groupes cibles vulnérables à Monrovia. Michael Emery, en sa qualité de VNU responsable des activités logistiques, s'est vu attribuer quelques tâches désagréables telles que l'enterrement des squelettes jonchant les champs de bataille à travers la ville: "C'est une expérience sérieuse que de voir 120 crânes qui vous regardent, de penser que ces gens ont ri, ont chanté, ont pleuré, avaient des familles et que maintenant ils sont morts pour rien..."

D'autres VNU — Jay Kumaratunga, de Sri Lanka, et Philippos Papaphilippou, de Grèce — ont rejoint le premier groupe afin d'aider le PAM à organiser la distribution des vivres. Leurs opérations allaient jusqu'à débarquer des bâteaux arrivés au Port de Monrovia quelque 800 tonnes de nourriture par jour grâce à la devise du PAM et de l'UNDRO "Vivres contre travail", aidées par des volontaires libériens. Sean et Philippos ont développé un système de numérotation par maison et par habitants afin que la distribution de nourriture atteigne tout le monde. Jay Kumaratunga explique: "...Pendant une des dernières distribution que nous avons coordonnée, nous avons délivré 6000 tonnes de nourriture couvrant 168 quartiers et 780,000 bénéficiaires en 17 jours!" Julia Kemp s'est occupée des groupes vulnérables tels que les handicapés, les personnes âgées et les enfants sous-alimentés concentrés dans des centres tenus par Médecins sans frontières, l'AICF et l'UNICEF.

Deux autres VNU — Towai Sha Zai, du Bangladesh, et Sumithra Ariyaratne, de Sri Lanka — qui travaillaient sur des projets hydrauliques du PNUD au Libéria avant la guerre se sont joints aux cinq autres VNU et se sont immédiatement mis au travail afin de remettre en état l'approvisionnement d'eau à Monrovia. Grâce à eux — et à travers l'UNICEF, OXFAM et ICRC — les habitants de Monrovia recoivent maintenant de 30 à 40 litres d'eau potable par jour.

Six mois après l'arrivée des VNU, la situation à Monrovia s'est améliorée grâce à leur enthousiasme et dynamisme ainsi qu'à ceux des agences impliquées. Il s'agit maintenant d'étendre l'assistance aux autres provinces du Libéria. ❍

Español

En Diciembre 1990 siete Voluntarios VNUs llegaron a Monrovia para llevar a cabo un proyecto de la UNDRO de ayuda urgente a Liberia, afectada desde hace un año por la guerra civil. Rodeada por las fuerzas del Frente Patriótico Nacional de Liberia, la capital quedó desvinculada del resto del país sin recibir ningún tipo de víveres. Sean Devereux del Reino Unido, Voluntario de las Naciones Unidas, conociendo bien ese país por haber trabajado desde antes de la guerra, describe la situación desesperada de la sociedad liberiana, antaño tan llena de de vida: "No había ni agua, ni electricidad, ni mercados, nada! La gente moría, literalmente, de hambre! Todo el mundo estaba aterrorizado! La gente mendigaba por todas partes".

Poco tiempo después, Michael Emery de Australia y Julia Kemp del Reino Unido se unieron a Sean Devereux.

Juntos los tres, bajo la orientación de Terry Lewis, responsable de la UNDRO y de Michael Heyn, Coordinador Especial de las Operaciones, reestablecieron las actividades de las Naciones Unidas en Liberia. A fines de Mayo del 90 las Naciones Unidas se retiraron de Liberia, tras el tempestivo ataque a sus cuarteles en el que 30 liberianos que habían buscado refugio allí, perdieron la vida. Los esfuerzos de socorro se volvían difíciles: las oficinas habían sido saqueadas y la mayoría del personal local habían desaparecido o perecido. Además, las comunicaciones eran imposibles y era bastante peligroso aventurarse fuera. Michael y Julia contaban de las balas que pasaban silbando sobre sus cabezas.

Muchas de las primeras actividades de las Naciones Unidas en Liberia se concentraron en establecer un apoyo logístico para la distribución de alimentos y en identificar los grupos más débiles de Monrovia.

A Michael Emery, como VNU responsable de las actividades logísticas, se le asignaron tareas variadas, entre ellas, una bastante desagradable: enterrar los cadáveres que yacían en los campos de batalla a través la ciudad. "Fue una experiencia terrible para mí, ver 120 cráneos de personas que me miraban y pensar que cada una de estas personas había reído, cantado y llorado, que habían tenido una familia y que ahora estaban muertos sin ninguna razón!".

Otros VNUs, Jay Kumaratunga, de Sri Lanka, y Philippos Papaphilippou de Grecia se sumaron al primer grupo para ayudar al PAM a organizar la distribución de víveres. Sus tareas consistían desde ayudar a desembarcar los barcos, organizar el transporte a los centros de distribución de alimentos y supervisar los alimentos. "Cuando llegué se desembarcaban 150 toneladas por día, las condiciones eran espantosas. Esqueletos yacían por doquier, los niños recogían los granos de arroz sucios esparcidos por las calles, desesperados por el hambre. Ahora operamos a 800 toneladas por día gracias al incentivo que lanzó la UNDRO "Comida por trabajo" ahora el Puerto de Monrovia es uno de los que mejor operan en la Costa Oeste del Africa y con pérdidas muy bajas" nos dice orgulloso Jay.

Sean y Philippos elaboraron un sistema de numeración por casa y por habitante a fin de que la distribución de alimentos llegara a todos por igual. En una de las últimas distribuciones que coordinaron, pudieron distribuir más de 6000 toneladas de alimentos cubriendo 168 zonas residenciales y 780.000 beneficiarios en el espacio de 17 días.

A Julia Kemp se le reservó los grupos de la población más indefensos como los inválidos, las personas ancianas, los niños desnutridos y organizar la distribución de comida extra para los centros donde están hospedados y que están dirigidos por "Médecins sans frontières", el AICF y el UNICEF.

Towai Sha Zai del Bangladesh y Sumitra Ariyaratne del Sri Lanka, quienes trabajaban en proyectos hidráulicos del PNUD en Liberia antes de la guerra, se unieron a estos cinco VNUs en Diciembre y se pusieron inmediatamente a trabajar para poner en marcha el aprovisionamiento de agua en Monrovia. Gracias a ellos, al UNICEF, al OXFAM y a la Cruz Roja, los habitantes de Monrovia reciben ahora de 30 a 40 litros de agua potables diarios. Casi seis meses después de la llegada de los VNUs, la situación en Liberia ha mejorado notablemente. Las personas con quienes he hablado dentro de las Naciones Unidas así como las agencias que trabajan en Monrovia, son unánimes en concordar que los VNUs han añadido una dimensión más dinámica al personal de las Naciones Unidas que trabajan en situaciones de emergencia. El próximo desafío con que deberán enfrentarse los VNUs en Liberia será el de extender las operaciones de socorro al resto del país.

...NEWS FLASH...

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNV: FRESH ASIAN FIELD WORKERS ARRIVE IN INDIA

As UNV celebrates its 20th anniversary, 8 new UNV/DDS Field Workers arrived from Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines, bringing the total number of DDS Field Workers in India to 29. Reciprocally 21 Indian DDS Field Workers serve in other Asian countries. So far UNV/DDS Field Workers in India have been working mainly with Nehru Yuvak Kendras and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on need-based development projects. The new arrivals will work with rural development programmes in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. If successful, the experiment may be replicated in other Asian countries.

ERRATA...

On page 11 of UNVNews No.53 of March 1991, in the article "Important Days in My Life", we mistakenly stated that Bhim Udas had been appointed as the World Food Programme's Director of Operations in Iran. In fact, in addition to his responsibilities for Afghanistan and matters relating to Afghan refugees in Pakistan at WFP's Rome Headquarters, he has been assigned as Desk Officer for Iran. Also, on page 17 of UNVNews No.54 of June 1991, we inadvertently attributed the third prize and the sixth best photograph also to the UNV's Bangladeshi national counterpart, Ms. M.T. Hosneara, rather than to the photographer, UNV Ranjani Chitra Jayaweera.

A UNV'S PRIVILEGE

John Ndege (left) with participants during one of the Fish Farmers Training Courses.

by D.E.S. Jayamaha
UNV Fish Farmer
Kenya

Nyakach is a small township in Nyanza Province of Kenya. It lies between Kisii and Kisumu. From this picturesque little town situated on a table hill, scattered with large rocks and hidden springs of sparkling freshwater, one can see the town of Kisumu - the gateway of Kenya from Lake Victoria - with its fast developing high-rise buildings and the glittering waters of the serene and mighty Lake Victoria, the second largest freshwater lake in the world.

Close to the summit of this hill is a small but well constructed fish pond. Its owner is John Ndege, and he is blind. With the assistance of his children and neighbours he constructed the pond. As he lives close by, he looks after the pond and its fish with care. When harvest time comes, he is thrilled with the catch.

John was invited to participate in one of the many Fish Farmers Training Courses organised by the Lake Basin Development Authority which has an ambitious on-going FAO/UNDP funded Fisheries Programme project.

It was at one of these training courses that I met John Ndege, the blind fish farmer from Nyakach. Attired in a jacket and sporting a hat, he was an imposing figure with his ever faithful companion - the white cane. While others were busy taking down notes copiously, our sightless friend would simply bow his head and listen. Suddenly, the silence in the lecture hall would be broken with a brilliant question. Having got an acceptable answer he would continue to bow his head and listen intently.

It was a two-day course and Ndege was a wonder to behold. The manner in which he conducted himself in the lecture hall, on field trips, in the dining hall and the dormitory was exemplary. By touch he could differentiate a male and female Tilapia fish. I will never forget the way he walked up to the high table - flanked by his colleagues - to receive his certificate.

When I visited him last, he was busy enlarging his fish pond. He was a marvel with the hoe, pick-axe and the spade. He has applied for a loan from the Credit Revolving Fund of the Authority. I am sure it will not be long before he gets it.

John Ndege: I wish him well and consider it a great privilege to have been associated with his fish farming venture.

John Ndege rehabilitating his fish pond, assisted by the local Chief.

Français

Nyakach est un petit village dans la province de Nyanza au Kenya, entre Kisii et Kisumu, perché dans les hauteurs aux portes du lac Victoria.

C'est là-haut que l'on trouve un petit étang cultivé. Son propriétaire, c'est John Ndege, un aveugle. Grâce à l'aide de ses enfants et de ses voisins il a lui même construit ce vivier près duquel il vit, ce qui lui permet de bien l'entretenir.

John Ndege a été invité à participer à l'un des nombreux cours de formation de pisciculteurs organisés dans la région faisant partie d'un ambitieux projet FAO/PNUD, couvrant le développement des petites industries de pisciculture dans la région du lac.

C'est durant cette formation que j'ai rencontré John Ndege. Tandis que les autres prenaient inlassablement des notes, notre ami aveugle écoutait simplement. De temps en temps, il posait des questions intéressantes. Son comportement pendant ces deux jours de formation, sur le terrain, au réfectoire ou au dortoir, était exemplaire. Il pouvait, juste au toucher, différencier un Tilapia mâle ou femelle. Je n'oublierai jamais le jour où il a reçu son certificat!

Lors de ma dernière visite, il agrandissait son étang. Il maniait la pioche, la pelle et la hâche à la perfection. Il venait de demander un emprunt au Fond renouvelable de crédit de sa région. John Ndege, je te souhaite de réussir et je considère comme un privilège que d'être associé à ton aventure piscicole.

Español

Nyakach es un poblado pequeño en la provincia de Nyanya en Kenya, entre Kisii y Kisumu. Desde este pueblito tan pintoresco situado sobre una meseta se puede apreciar la aldea de Kisumu - la entrada a Kenya desde el lago Victoria.

Casi a la cima de este cerro existe un pequeño pero bien instalado vivero de peces. Su propietario se llama John Ndege y es ciego. El pudo construir, con la ayuda de sus hijos y vecinos del lugar, este pequeño criadero de peces. John vive cerca del estanque, ésto le permite dar mayor atención a los peces y limpiar el estanque.

John Ndege fue invitado a participar en uno de los numerosos cursos de capacitación para pisicultores organizado en la región y que forman parte de un proyecto ambicioso de la FAO/PNUD que fomenta el desarrollo de la pisicultura en pequeña escala en la región del lago. Fue durante estas sesiones de capacitación que conocí a John. Mientra que los otros participantes tomaban notas, nuestro amigo sólo inclinaba su cabeza y escuchaba atentamente. De repente el silencio de la sala era interrumpido por una pregunta inteligente. Después de obtener una respuesta conveniente John volvía a escuchar con esmero. Su comportamiento durante el curso fue ejemplar así como también en las visitas de inspección, en el comedor o en el dormitorio. Era sorprendente cómo podía diferenciar al tacto un pez Tilapia macho de una hembra. Siepre recordaré el día en que recibió su certificado.

Cuando lo visité la última vez, el estaba ocupado tratando de agrandar su vivero. Manejaba a la maravilla el pico, la pala y el hacha. Había solicitado un préstamo a las autoridades, el cual estoy seguro se lo concederán muy pronto. Deseo a John Ndege muchos éxitos y considero un gran privilegio haber estado asociado a él en esta aventura pisícola.

...NEWS FLASH...

To:
The Resident Representative
United Nations Development Programme
55 Lodi Estate
New Delhi 110003, India

2/12/90

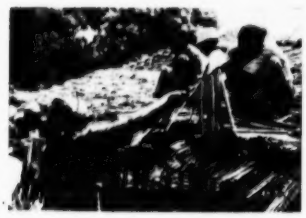
Dear Sir,

Thanks to the UNV programme. We are very glad to inform you that we have won the state award (1st prize) for working model (modified rope water pump).
Mr. M. Bandara, UNV/DDS Field Worker of NYK Malappuram taught us a lot of practical appropriate technologies useful to the High School students in the area. We prepared a modified coir pump with his and his co-worker's, Mr. Mohamed Kurli's help and presented it at the State Latest Science and Technology Exhibition 1990, Kerala, and we were honoured with the above award.
On behalf of the thousands of students and teachers, we propose to offer our great honour and thanks to UNDP and the UNV programme that provide such useful experts.
Wishing you all the success to your excellent service.
Yours faithfully,

The Headmaster
Girl's High School, Ponani, Kerala
South India

(Reproduced from issue No. 35 of UNV DDS Asia Newsletter)

UNV'S FIRST HONORARY VOLUNTEER



UNV needs to be more widely known. So, it was agreed to invite some distinguished people to be Honorary UNVs for short periods in the 20th Anniversary year and beyond. Not just for "development tourism", however, but well-known people with something relevant to share with UNVs. An early choice was Mrs Gladys Masire - not only Botswana's First Lady but the country's Director of Community Development - whom we got to know at UNV's Intergovernmental Meeting in 1986.

Mrs Masire readily accepted, and set off for Tanzania on Saturday 17th August. A full programme awaited her, prepared by Ministries and NGOs, together with DDS Country Specialist Francis Omondi and Programme Officer Stephen Ogundipe.

Church service, a visit to Bagamoyo and lunch with UNV and UN spouses on the Sunday were followed by a Monday courtesy call on UNDP Resident Representative a.i., Mr. Toon Vissers, and briefings with DDS fieldworkers, Tanzanian NGOs and volunteer agencies. On Tuesday in Bunju, a focus of DDS work, Mrs Masire laid the foundation stone of a Day-care Centre and joined in building a nursery school.

On Wednesday she flew to Zanzibar, visiting the Animal Disease Control Programme, and disabled persons' activities before lunching with UNVs and officials. Then a tour of the UNDP-assisted Zanzibar Stone Town Rehabilitation project, and a press conference, before regaining the mainland.

Back in Dar es Salaam, Thursday's programme took in visits to a Clinic, a Youth Centre and its Child Care work, in Umati. Next, a meeting with the Permanent Secretary for Community Development, Women's Affairs and Children, Ms Dina Mussa, and the Tanzanian Women's Organisation; and a tour of the fish market at Ferry, where Mrs Masire encouraged the fishermen to export to Botswana. A State Dinner followed, in the presence of Tanzania's First Lady, Mrs Siti Mwinyi. Finally, to Dodoma on Friday, for events involving Regional and Municipal officials and DDS initiatives in Nzuguni, where Mrs Masire once again joined in construction, of a Youth Centre.

A farewell Press Conference at UNDP on Saturday, and our honorary Volunteer was on the plane back to Gaborone - where Botswana's press also received an account of her assignment, before she could rest from a most energetic week.

Talking to Dr. McSweeney later, Mrs Masire found it hard to single out any one highlight of the visit. Like every volunteer, she said that she had learnt from it at every stage - look out for growth in the DDS programme in Botswana! But, to judge from what the organisers were saying back in Tanzania, she had given every bit as much as she may have learnt.

BIOGAZ ET BOUSE DE VACHE

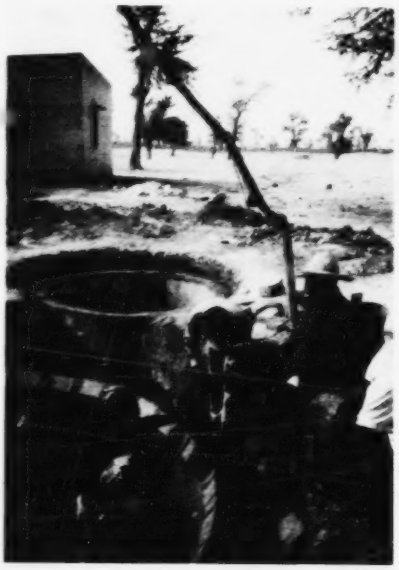
Dans le cadre du projet PNUD RAF/87/068, le Centre régional africain de technologie (CRAT) — à la demande du Centre d'études et de recherches sur les énergies renouvelables (CERER) — a financé à hauteur de 4.500.000 FCFA l'implantation d'une unité pilote de production de biogaz de 30m3 de volume dans le village de Sassal, au Sénégal. En fait, cette unité vient compléter et rendre opérationnel un ensemble d'équipements dont un moteur dual biogaz/diesel de 3.5 KVA reçu dans le cadre d'un autre projet (Gouvernement indien/Sénégal/CEA/CRAT).

La production de biogaz envisagée (6 à 8 m3 par jour), obtenue à partir de bouse de vache disponible en grande quantité à Sassal devrait permettre d'une part de générer de l'électricité pendant 3 heures par jour et d'autre part, de fournir l'énergie pour la cuisson des aliments pour une famille de 6 personnes. De plus, les effluents de la digestion (1 m3 par jour) seront mis dans une fosse de compostage en vue de produire un engrais organique qui pourrait améliorer les rendements des cultures de 15 à 20 pour cent.

L'installation d'un biodigesteur continu de type chinois menée conjointement par les techniciens du CERER et du CRAT s'est déroulée en deux phases et a permis de construire pendant les 15 jours de la première phase la partie basse du biodigesteur et pendant les autres 15 jours de la deuxième phase de construire le dôme et finir ainsi le travail. Le CRAT a profité de la deuxième phase du travail pour organiser un atelier de formation sur la technologie du biogaz en général et sur la construction du dôme d'un digesteur de type chinois en particulier. Ce stage a réuni au village de Sassal une vingtaine de participants représentant le Bénin, le Burundi, le Cap-Vert, la Guinée, la Guinée-Bissau, le Malawi, le Niger, le Sénégal et le Soudan. Alliant la théorie à la pratique, en passant du crayon à la truelle sans transition, les stagiaires ont participé très activement à toutes les étapes de la construction du dôme et ont suivi des cours approfondis tels que, entre autres, introduction sur le processus de biofermentation, choix du site et du type de digesteur, calcul des matériaux, étude des problèmes de maintenance.

Deux sessions de cet atelier de formation ont été également consacrées à la présentation par les stagiaires de leur expérience nationale en matière de dif-

Construction d'un digesteur à biogaz de type chinois: de droite à gauche, on peut apercevoir M. Wade, du CERER, M. Mamadou Camara, VNU attaché au CRAT, M. NDiaye, maçon, et deux autres stagiaires sénégalais.



Construction du dôme d'un digesteur à biogaz de type chinois.

fusion de la technologie du biogaz. Cette expérience fort enrichissante qui marque une rupture par rapport aux ateliers et séminaires souvent organisés en ville et dont les résultats touchent rarement le milieu rural, a amené les stagiaires à recommander au CRAT de multiplier les stages de formation pratique de ce genre.

English

Under a UNDP project, the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), at the request of the Recylable Energy Study and Research Centre (RESRC), has inaugurated a pilot biogas production plant with a production capacity of 30m3. The equipment employed to operate this plant includes a 3.5 KVA dual biogas/diesel motor received under another government oriented project, Government/India/Senegal/CEA/ARCT.

The production of biogas, mainly from the freely available cow-dung in the Sassal region, serves to generate electricity for three hours per day. In addition, the residue from the biogas process, around 1m3 a day, is put aside to manufacture organic fertilizer to help produce higher crop yields.

The construction of the Biogas plant, a joint effort by technicians of ARCT and RESRC, took two phases of 15 days each, the first phase covered the construction of the base and the second phase was to construct the dome. During the second phase the ARCT took the opportunity to organise a workshop on General Biogas Technology and the Construction of a Biogas plant dome and to involve the participants in the actual construction of the dome.

Around twenty participants from other neighbouring African countries participated in these training sessions held in Sassal. Two of the days were dedicated to exchanging views on biogas technology. At the end of the fruitful training session the ARCT was requested by the participants to have similar workshops available more often.

Español

Dentro del marco del proyecto RAF/87/068 el Centro Regional Africano de Tecnología (CRAT) y a solicitud del centro de estudios e investigación sobre las energías reciclables (CERER), ha financiado la instalación de una planta de producción de biogás de 30 m3 de volumen, en la aldea de Sassal en Senegal. Esta planta acaba de ser instalada y opera con un motor de biogás/diesel que fuera utilizado en otro proyecto conjunto del Gobierno de India y el Senegal.

La producción del biogás, obtenida del estiércol de la vaca de la región del Sassal ha servido por un lado para generar electricidad durante 3 horas al día y por otro para obtener energía suficiente que permite a una familia de seis personas, cocinar sus alimentos diarios. Además los residuos son utilizados como fertilizantes orgánicos para ayudar a aumentar el rendimiento de los cultivos. La construcción de la planta de biogás de tipo chino es un esfuerzo conjunto de los técnicos del CRAT y CERER y se desarrolló en dos fases de 15 días. En la primera fase se edificó la base y en la segunda se construyó la cúpula. Durante la segunda fase el CRAT aprovechó la ocasión para organizar un seminario de capacitación sobre la tecnología general del biogás y en particular sobre la construcción de la cúpula de este digestor de diseño chino.

Unos 20 participantes de otros países africanos participaron en este seminario. Fusionando la teoría a la práctica, los participantes tomaron parte activa en todas las etapas de la construcción, además que siguieron cursos como introducción al proceso de biofermentación, elección del emplazamiento y el tipo de digestor, cálculo de los materiales, estudios de los problemas y el mantenimiento. Dos de estos días se dedicaron a intercambiar experiencias sobre el desarrollo de la tecnología del biogás. Este seminario tuvo tanto éxito que se solicitó al CRAT organizar programas de capacitación de este género con más frecuencia.

FIRST UNV TO LIBYA

Mazin Abu Shanab (left), pictured here at UNV Headquarters, Geneva, with Bill Jackson, Chief, External Relations Division, is from Jordan. He is the first UNV Specialist to be assigned to Libya - as a Field Officer with UNHCR.

Graduating in medicine from the Sind Medical College of Karachi, Pakistan, he worked first as an Arabic/English Interpreter at the Society for the Promotion of Arabic in Karachi; then he joined UNHCR in Islamabad, Pakistan, and was responsible for the interpretation of interviews for Iraqis/Arab refugees eligible for resettlement. Before his UNV post, he was working in Islamabad as a Resettlement Assistant for UNHCR.

Mr. Abu Shanab is married and has two children.

DEPTH

1. The Mahalla Carpentry Workshop, Republic of Yemen. UNV Wood working Technician (third from right), Echeng Eleng, from Nigeria, inspecting woodcutting along with the CTA of the project, Mr. Radkmilo Malis (second from right).
2. UNV Veterinarian from Sudan, Saad Alla Bilal Awad (right), treating a goat in ex- PDR Yemen.
3. UNV Civil Engineer, from Egypt, Mohamed El Saved (extreme right) talking to the contractor while supervising construction of a Veterinary Centre in ex-PDR Yemen.

Congressman Tony Hall, from Ohio, USA, a former Peace Corps Volunteer, was one of a delegation of UN Congressmen to visit Geneva in the wake of the Gulf War. UNV's Executive Co-ordinator, Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney met with them to seek the delegation's support for UNV's role in the humanitarian relief assistance to the Gulf Region. She was accompanied by Kevin Gilroy, from Oregon, USA, of the UNV Headquarters staff, who has served in the field both with UNV and with Peace Corps.

*Australia helped seed a seed-fund when High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands, Mr. John Starey, presented a cheque for A$11,300 to UNV/DDS Programme Specialist Kolinio Ulakia. The money will boost the seed-fund for small income projects being implemented by village youth groups throughout the provinces, with the help of DDS Field Workers. Kolinio Ulakia stressed that the donation should help the fund which, like a seed, is itself expected to grow. Successful projects should develop at a pace equivalent to the level of members' participation and such funds should thus not be **100%** funded by donors, he felt.*

F FIELD

Sajal Datta Gupta (right), UNV Programme Officer in Sudan, and Juliet Kausar, UNV Project Officer in Pakistan, both from Bangladesh, recently celebrated their wedding at a reception in Khartoum. The lively celebration was attended by Mr. Per Janvid (middle), UNDP Resident Representative in Sudan, as well as other UN staff members and UNV colleagues.

2

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1. Jaime Duque Reyes, Especialista VNU en Guatemala muestra la artesanía guatemalteca a la Dra Brenda Gael McSweeney durante su misión a San Antonio Palopó en Guatemala.
2. Una joven indígene con su hermanito se sumaron al grupo de VNUs que acogieron a la Dra Brenda Gael McSweeney en la localidad de San Antonio Palopó.

DJIBOUTI: UN PROJET ADAPTE DE PUITS CIMENTES

par Ismaila Keita
VNU Puisatier
Djibouti

Djibouti 1987: deux projets d'hydraulique pastorale débutent, celui de l'Etude de nappes alluviales et celui de la Construction de trente puits cimentés. Ils sont financés par le FNUD et exécutés par le Service du génie rural du Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural, le Département des Nations Unies pour la coopération technique et le développement, et le Fonds d'équipement des Nations Unies. Leur objectif essentiel: fournir une source d'approvisionnement en eau aux populations nomades et pastorales dans des zones reculées de Djibouti.

Djibouti 1989: les enfants de Kontali, Bondara et Ardo se réjouissent. Ils laissent éclater leur joie dans des myriades de perles transparentes. Les nomades de Chekeytti abreuvent leurs chameaux près de l'ancestrale piste caravanière vers l'Ethiopie. Les villages pastoraux de Dagadle, Barogali, Ewali, Amisso, Attar, etc., ne craignent plus la saison sèche.

Située dans la région qu'on appelle la corne de l'Afrique, Djibouti est l'un des pays les plus chauds du monde dû au climat aride de la bande sub-tropicale. L'eau est une denrée rare. La pluviosité annuelle est de l'ordre de 150 mm, ne dépassant pas 300 mm dans les massifs montagneux du centre du pays, notamment la région du Day, district de Tadjourah. Elle est inférieure à 100 mm sur la grande plaine côtière du nord-est, district d'Obock. Si les pluies sont peu fréquentes dans cette région, elles n'en sont pas moins violentes comme en témoignent les précipitations exceptionnelles d'avril 1989 qui ont ravagé certains quartiers de Djibouti ville. C'est d'ailleurs dans ces périodes de crues importantes que s'effectue l'essentiel de la recharge des aquifères.

Le Gouvernement de Djibouti entame actuellement une politique globale d'identification des ressources, des réserves et des besoins locaux grâce au Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural, représenté par Monsieur Mohamed Moussa Chehem, en collaboration avec le PNUD et le Représentant résident, Monsieur Mohamed Berrezoug. Les experts du DCTD ont tout d'abord réalisé les différentes études géologiques qui s'imposaient telles que hydrogéologie, géophysique et forages de reconnaissance. Enfin, sous le contrôle de Ismaila Keita, VNU Puisatier, originaire du Mali, commence la construction de puits modernes à grand diamètre, busés et crépinés. Les techniques de creusement varient en fonction de la lithologie des terrains rencontrés et du type de nappe alluviale: la méthode de havage avec "trousse coupante" a été utilisée dans les alluvions d'oueds (rivières) sablo-argileux. La colonne filtrante descendant sous l'effet de son propre poids, les travaux avancent ainsi rapidement. Cependant, dans le cas de formations hétérogènes, dures ou massives, le fonçage est plus facile lorsqu'on utilise des moyens mécaniques tels que marteaux piqueurs. Bien sûr, dans ce cas-là, l'avancement des travaux est plus lent. L'installation des buses préfabriquées, crépinées et pleines s'effectue en

Les nomades trouvent de l'eau sur leur chemin.

Construction d'un puits à Ewali sous la supervision d'un expert hydrogéologue.

fin de fonçage.

C'est ainsi qu'à Ardo, district de Tadjourah, deux sources ont été aménagées et deux puits alimentent village, école, plusieurs jardins et les nomades de passage. Le puits qui alimente l'école et le village a été équipé d'une pompe solaire par la coopération française (FAC). Les légumes commencent à pousser. Les femmes de la région n'ont plus à marcher si longtemps pour aller chercher l'eau quotidienne.

Ce projet est une première dans la région. Désormais des équipes autonomes sont formées et dotées du matériel nécessaire à l'entretien des puits. Devant les résultats positifs, les mentalités évoluent. Par exemple, des nomades et paysans réalisent eux mêmes des puits en pierre sèches après la préparation des lieux par des techniciens.

Ce projet est un catalyseur car, prenant conscience de l'importance de ce type de points d'eau, d'autres organismes sont intervenus tels que l'Agence islamique de secours en Afrique et l'Association française des volontaires du progrès, qui réalisent des puits souvent en étroite collaboration avec le projet.

De plus, le projet a su donner une impulsion et établir une collaboration efficace entre les différents services concernés tels que génie rural, Institut supérieur d'étude et de recherche scientifique et technique, Office national des eaux de Djibouti. Bien adapté aux besoins locaux, ce projet a permis l'alimentation en eau de régions isolées et souvent défavorisées. Trois écoles ouvriront prochainement, des jardins se créent ou se développent rapidement et les populations semi-nomades trouvent de l'eau sur leur chemin.

L'eau étant un facteur de développement, l'impact immédiat sur les conditions de vie des populations nomades pastorales et agricoles consitue le plus beau de tous les succès.

English

Djibouti 1987: the beginning of two hydro-agricultural projects, one to study underground springs and the other to construct 30 cement wells. Funded by UNDP and executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Dept. for Technical Co-operation and Development, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the goal of the project is to provide a source of water supply to the farmers and the nomadic population in the outskirts of Djibouti.

Djibouti 1989: Children from Kontali, Bondara and Ardo exclaim their joy under the thousands of drops of water. The nomads water their camels in the old caravan route to Ethiopia. The neighboring agricultural villages do not worry about the dry season anymore.

Djibouti, situated in the Horn of Africa, is one of the hottest countries in the world. Water is a rare commodity and the annual rainfall averages around 100 mm in the plains and 300 mm in the mountain region.

Thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the UNDP Resident Representative, the Government of Djibouti has adapted a global policy to identifying water resources and reserves. After different studies by TCDC experts, Ismaila Keita, UNV Well-digger from Mali, has begun building modern wells. The duration of the construction work depends very much on the nature of the ground (hard or soft) and the springs encountered. The prefabricated rings greatly help the construction work. Ardo, in the district of Tadjourah, now has two wells to supply the school, the village, some gardens and the passing nomads. The well that supplies the village and the school is equipped with a solar pump provided by French Cooperation. The vegetables have started to grow and the women from the region do not have to walk so far for their daily water.

The project, one of the first in the region, has changed the mentality of the people with its positive results. The villagers and the nomads have now realised that they too can build stone wells themselves once the technicians have prepared the ground.

As a catalyst, this project has attracted interest and collaboration among other organisations and associations including the Rural Engineering Services, the Institute for Higher Studies and Scientific and Technical Research and the National Water Office in Djibouti. Well adapted to the local needs, this project provides water to isolated and underprivileged regions.

Water, the source of life and development, has been a big success with its immediate impact on the lives of the nomads and the farmers.

Español

Djibouti 1987: Comienzo de dos proyectos hidráulicos-pastorales, financiados por el PNUD y ejecutados por el Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, el Departamento de Cooperación Técnica y Desarrollo y el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo de la Capitalización. Uno, para estudiar las fuentes de aguas subterráneas y el otro para la construcción de 30 pozos de cemento. Su principal objetivo es ofrecer una fuente de abastecimiento de agua para los pastores y la población nómada en las zonas remotas de Djibouti.

Djibouti 1989: Los niños de Kontali, Bondara y Ardo ríen contentos al ser rociados por gotas de agua transparente. Los nómadas dan de beber agua a sus camellos cerca de la vieja ruta de caravanas que lleva a Etiopía. Las tribus pastorales ya no temen la llegada de la época seca.

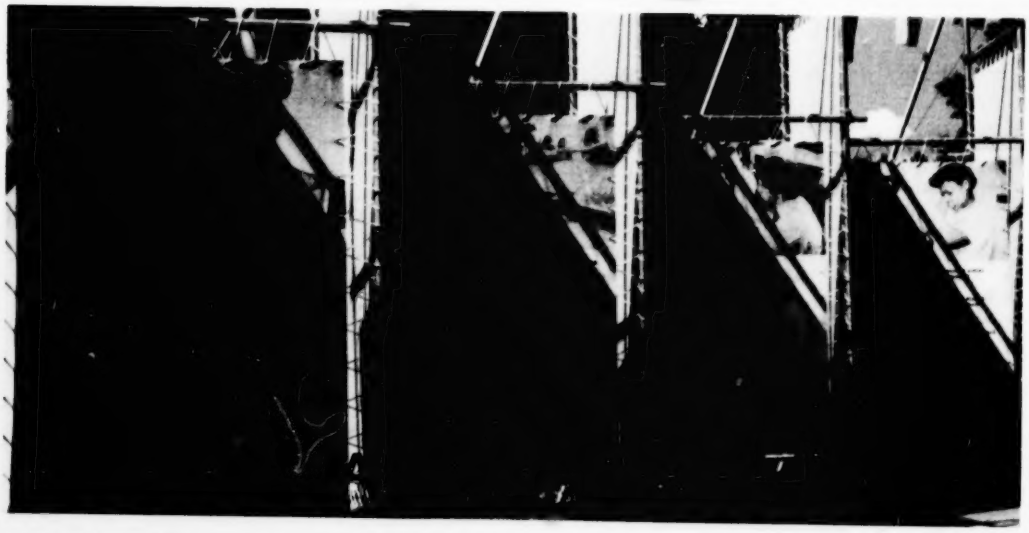
Djibouti, situado en la región denominada el cuerno del Arica es uno de los países más calientes en el mundo. El agua es un lujo en esta región árida y las lluvias anuales no sobrepasan los 300 mm. en las regiones montañosas.

Gracias al Ministerio de Agricultura y de Desarrollo Rural y al Representante Residente del PNUD, el Gobierno de Djibouti ha emprendido una política global para identificar los recursos hídricos. Los expertos de las Naciones Unidas primero realizaron diferentes análisis y estudios geofísicos, hidrológicos y sondeos y finalmente bajo la supervisión de Ismaila Keita, Especialista VNU, de Malí, experto en la excavación de pozos se emprende la construcción de pozos modernos de grandes diámetros. Las técnicas de perforación varían de acuerdo a la litología del terreno y de las fuentes de agua que se encuentran. Las tuberías de agua prefabricadas ayudan enormente en la construcción de los pozos.

Ardo, en el Distrito de Tadjoutah, tiene dos pozos que suministran agua a la escuela, a la tribu, a los parques y a los nómadas de paso. El pozo que provee de agua a la aldea y a la escuela está equipado de una bomba solar ofrecida por la cooperación francesa. Las hortalizas han comenzado a crecer y las mujeres de la región no tienen que caminar muy lejos para aprovisionarse de agua para sus labores cotidianas.

Este proyecto es un gran acontecimiento en la región, en adelante se forman equipos autónomos y se les da el material necesario para el mantenimiento de los pozos. Ante tales resultados positivos la mentalidad de la gente ha evolucionado. Por ejemplo los nómadas y campesinos erigen ellos mismos sus pozos de piedra una vez que el terreno les ha sido preparado por los

(continúa en la pág. 29)



UNV's 20th Anniversary year has coincided with the rather more august 700th Anniversary of the Swiss Confederation.

To mark the latter the Canton of Geneva amongst other things designated the Avenue de la Paix, which runs beside the Palais des Nations, "La voie de la paix" (The Way of Peace). For the period of the celebrations the avenue has been bedecked with arches and the flags of all the member states of the UN. The flags and arches lead on the one hand to a public display of the work of the various UN Agencies based in Geneva, and on the other to the Headquarters and Museum of the International Committee of the Red Cross. UNV had its panel amongst those of the UN bodies.

LA SAPONIFICATION EN CENTRAFRIQUE

Dans le cadre des activités DDS sur le terrain, les animatrices DDS en République centrafricaine ont apporté au monde rural des petits savoirs permettant de rehausser le niveau de vie grâce aux revenus obtenus. Ainsi, Awunyo Akossiwa, originaire du Togo, a introduit à Bossangoa la technique de saponification.

Cette forme d'échange d'expérience avec les groupements féminins à la base devait aboutir à une promotion socio-économique des femmes et leur permettre de se prendre progressivement en charge. Depuis son arrivée et ensemble avec la population intéressée, diverses activités ont été menées, entre autres le jardinage, la construction de foyers améliorés, la vannerie, et surtout la saponification dont l'essor actuel dans la localité est manifeste.

L'exécution de ces activités génératrices de revenus a eu un écho favorable auprès des femmes notamment les wali-gala, ou femmes commerçantes, qui s'intéressent de plus en plus aux micro-projets d'auto-développement à la base.

Ainsi, afin d'utiliser au mieux les ressources générées par les activités précédentes et de contrebalancer le prix du savon au niveau local, les femmes ont entrepris la fabrication de savon à partir d'huile de palme ou d'huile de karité. Les séances de fabrication ont lieu chaque semaine en groupe. Le procédé est simple et souvent peu coûteux: on fait chauffer l'huile que l'on verse dans une bassine. On laisse refroidir. On verse l'huile lentement dans la soude caustique diluée et on ajoute du sel (photo 1). On tourne ensuite avec une grande cuillère jusqu'à ce que le mélange mousse et forme une solution concentrée et dense. On ajoute de la glycérine, du parfum et de l'essence de citronnelle (photo 2). On verse ensuite le mélange dans un moule et on nivèle avec un raglant (photo 3). Quand le tout s'est solidifié au bout de deux jours, on découpe les morceaux de savon au couteau (photo 4).

MINING AND INS

by Soma Rytkonen
Information Officer
UNV Regional DDS programme
for Africa

It looks like any African village: thatched huts, women cooking food, chickens lingering around. But it is not a village. It is a compound of miners and its inhabitants have a different lifestyle and subsistence from people in the surrounding villages.

Some 500 people live in the compound located in Central Zimbabwe. Most of their fathers or grandfathers migrated from the neighbouring countries of Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to work in the mines, so different customs and religions co-exist in harmony.

Nehanda and other little mines on the belt of hills are surrounded by a resettlement area. The Government purchased the land from a few white commercial farmers and resettled subsistence farmers from overcrowded communal lands there. They are engaged in farming and cattle raising.

For the people in Nehanda the only form of subsistence is their mining activity. As they do not have land to grow crops and they are not allowed to keep cattle, they have to buy their food. Chrome mining does not bring a steady income for the households. The consequences of the lack of cash are many. Nutrition is not always adequate, thus causing health problems. Often parents do not send their children to school. The majority don't have any formal education and school-leavers have few prospects.

Rather than remaining idle, many women help their husbands in the mine,

UNV DDS Field Worker, Betty Lupobe (second from right), spends most of her free time socialising with the families of the community. Her integration was eased by the fact that she has a common mother language with many people of the community.

but they are not remunerated. Most are also excluded from community decision making: there are only 12 women members of the mining cooperative which makes decisions.

In this situation, the umbrella organisation of mining cooperatives in Zimbabwe, ZMDC, decided to try out the assignment of UNV/DDS Field Workers to assist the communities to improve their living conditions. Two were recruited and one of them, Betty Lupobe who is a 26 year-old community development worker from Zambia, was assigned to Nehanda.

When Betty arrived in Nehanda in August 1989 she was very well received by the people. Her integration was eased by the fact that she shares a common mother language with many people in the compound. Nevertheless, some in the neighbourhood were wondering what a young woman would be able to teach them and had doubts about her motives. They advised the Nehanda people not to donate any money.

Betty first made a house-to-house survey to get to know the problems of the community and to register existing skills. She then called for a meeting of the whole community where some of the problems and possible solutions were discussed. She

NCOME IRATION

The Kumboedza Women's Group raised money by knitting, and by buying and selling food items and then applied for a loan from the DDS Fund to purchase three sewing machines. With the income generated by sewing they are soon starting to pay the loan back.

proposed the idea of forming groups which could start income generating activities.

"It is both extremely difficult and wonderful at the same time to be part of the process, because we are beginning absolutely from scratch and there were so many problems to overcome", says Betty who is soft-spoken, but energetic and confident.

"We did not know what it means to form a group and what activities it can start. Miss Betty helped us to realize it", recalls John Jali, secretary of a group.

After the meeting, Betty gave people time to form groups on their own. Some thirty women and one man came together, donating an equivalent of US$4 each as a membership fee, to form the Kumboedza group. The name means "we will try". They women started by knitting jerseys and sewing clothes for sale. Betty and the man in the group, who is very good at knitting, trained the others.

Twenty men formed the Kubatana group which means "Togetherness". They donated around US$8 each and started to raise funds by buying cattle from the nearby commercial farms, slaughtering and selling the meat in the compound. This initiated a plan for a butchery and poultry project.

"As these groups started their work, I could see the change in the people. The women were occupied in meaningful activity and their husbands were satisfied and realised there were other ways of earning money. It could be important one day, when this mine is exhausted", Betty comments.

The men's group quickly raised a considerable amount of money and was eager to build the butchery. The group had to go through a long process of negotiations with different authorities to get the design and the location of the building approved. In this the men learnt to defend their interests. In August 1990 the group received a loan of about US$1700 from the DDS fund and purchased a freezer and brick-mould. The revolving DDS Fund provides seed-money on a credit basis to communities with whom DDS Field Workers work. Bricks have now been moulded for the butchery and toilets to be built in the compound.

Having raised enough money to start a project, the women received a loan of about US$1500 from the DDS Fund to purchase three sewing machines. Betty could give training in sewing, but for pattern cutting the women hired a designer to train them for two months. Betty helped the groups write project proposals and she has trained them on-the-job in basic planning and book-keeping skills.

Word spread that interesting things were happening in Nehanda. Betty started to receive letters from other co-operatives and villages requesting her to assist them in setting up groups. It was felt that Betty could later cooperate with other mines which she can reach by bike, but that assuring a back-up in the resettlement area would be too much for one person. So the villages made a request for a second DDS Field Worker - which will soon be finalised.

Some people didn't content themselves with waiting. On a recent visit to a nearby mine, Kushinga, 10 kilometres away, Betty explained to some women how one forms a group. Three months later she received a message from the women to say that they had formed a group, built an oven and raised US$100 by selling buns. "I was impressed. They did it on their own in three months! So I really praised them", Betty says with much satisfaction.

The success of the groups created a positive atmosphere in Nehanda compound. Women chose one of their number to be trained at the clinic as a community health worker, and three other women were trained in bed attendance. The men's and women's group have started a vegetable garden project together. The vegetables will supplement the diet of the families and will also be for sale. Youths formed a drama group and they will start income-generating projects with the money raised through entrance fees to their performances.

The women have the idea of fish farming, which they could start at an old dam in a nearby river. They are also thinking of applying for land to start growing maize. Men and women are trying their hand at bee-keeping - another DDS Field Worker Renganaden Soobrayen, came recently to train them in this skill.

Betty felt that the time had come to bring people together to reflect upon what had been done and what their future direction would be. A one-week development workshop was organised at Nehanda compound in January 1991. Participants were also invited from the women's group at Kushinga mine and from another mine further away. Participants were hosted by the community and the DDS programme covered the cost of the food. During the sessions people developed ideas about the future of their communities and how to achieve them. They came up with an action plan. "We liked the workshop very much. We learned simple ways to plan, there will be no more headaches with planning", says one of the group members.

The two groups at Nehanda mine and at the new women's group at Kushinga mine hit on a shared gum tree project. Gum trees grow quickly and are easy to sell to mines for pit-props. Funding will be sought from Africa 2000, a fund that UNDP has put at the disposal of NGOs and grassroots groups for environmental protection. Now the Nehanda groups are starting to cooperate with the people at the other mines. The DDS programme promotes this type of networking: when people share resources and knowledge they are in a stronger position to put forward their needs to external bodies.

Within 18 months the groups at Nehanda have become a mobilising force for community action. Women have become decision-makers within their own group and they co-operate with the men's group. One of their chronic problems, lack of cash, has been eased: the mining cooperative and individuals can borrow money from the groups. Meat is available on credit and for a better price than in the town, and vegetables will also be available soon.

A third group has now been formed at Nehanda because more people want to start similar activities. Almost each household has at least one member in one of the groups.

"We are doing it to leave these projects to our kids. We would like our children to work in the projects and not to go to town, because life there is much more difficult", the women say. ( )

Betty Lupobe (on the right), dancing with Kumboedza Group members..

Français

Cela ressemble à un village, mais c'est l'enceinte des mineurs. Les gens qui y vivent ont un style de vie différent. Quelque 500 personnes vivent là, dans la province centrale du Zimbabwe. Leurs parents étaient venus de Zambie, du Malawi et du Mozambique pour travailler dans les mines.

Nehanda et les petites mines sont entourées par une zone de réhabilitation. En effet le Gouvernement a acheté les terres à des fermiers blancs et y ont installé le trop-plein de fermiers des terres communales qui vivent de l'exploitation de la terre et de l'élevage de bétail.

Mais pour les gens de Nehanda, la seule forme de subsistence reste leurs activités minières. L'exploitation du chrome rapporte peu. Aussi le manque d'argent a souvent des conséquences néfastes sur l'alimentation et sur l'éducation.

Plutôt que de ne rien faire, beaucoup de femmes aident leurs maris à la mine.

Mais elles ne sont pas payées. La plupart n'ont pas accès aux prises de décision. Aussi, une organisation réunissant les coopératives minières au Zimbabwe décide d'affecter deux animatrices VNU DDS pour aider les communautés à améliorer leurs conditions de vie, dont Nehanda.

Quand Betty Lupobe, 26 ans, originaire de Zambie, arrive à Nehanda en août 1989, elle entreprend tout d'abord une enquête porte-à-porte pour connaître les problèmes de la communauté. Ensuite elle lance l'idée de former des groupes et des activités génératrices de revenus. "Nous ne savions pas ce que c'était que de former un groupe ou de commencer de telles activités", raconte John Jali, "Miss Betty nous a aidé à comprendre et à réaliser une telle entreprise."

Des groupes d'activités se sont formés spontanément. Par exemple, une trentaine de femmes et un homme sont venus vers elle avec $4 chacun pour frais de participation et ont formé le groupe Kumboedza, qui veut dire "Nous essayerons". Les femmes ont commencé à tricoter et à fabriquer des habits qu'elles ont vendu. Betty et le seul homme du groupe, un expert en tricot, ont formé les autres.

Un autre exemple, le groupe Kubatana, qui veut dire "Ensemble", a donné $8 par personne de cotisation et a commencé une collecte de fonds en achetant du bétail et en vendant de la viande dans l'enceinte. Un projet de boucherie et d'élevage de poulets a suivi. Betty se félicite des entreprises locales: "...Ces activités seront importantes le jour où la mine ne sera plus rentable".

Les nouvelles vont vite: il se passe des choses intéressantes à Nehanda! Betty commence à recevoir des lettres d'autres coopératives et villages lui demandant de les aider à s'organiser. Betty va donc aider les mines qu'elle peut atteindre à bicyclette, s'assurant que bientôt une autre animatrice VNU DDS viendra l'aider.

Trois mois plus tard, Betty reçoit un message de Kushinga, à 10 kms de Nehanda, dans lequel elle apprend que les femmes se sont groupées, construit un four et collecté $100 en vendant des beignets: "J'ai été très impressionnée," explique Betty avec admiration. "Elles l'ont fait toutes seules et en trois mois!"

Vu les résultats positifs obtenus, Betty décide de réunir tous ceux concernés par ces succès. Les participants se sont retrouvés en janvier 1991 à Nehanda et ont discuté de l'avenir de leurs communautés. Certains groupes ont fusionné et ont lancé un projet commun de gommiers. Ce genre d'arbres poussent vite et sont faciles à vendre car ils servent d'étais de mine. L'argent viendra d'Africa 2000, un fonds du PNUD mis à la disposition des ONG et des groupes communautaires en vue de protéger l'environnement.

Le programme VNU DDS encourage de tels échanges: quand les populations partagent ressources et connaissances, elles sont à même de pouvoir exprimer leurs besoins entre elles. En 18 mois, les groupes de Nehanda sont devenus une force mobilisatrice quant à l'action communautaire. Les femmes se sont mises à prendre des décisions au sein de leurs propres groupes et elles coopèrent avec les groupes formés par des hommes.

Le problème chronique du manque d'argent a été atténué: les coopératives et les individuels peuvent emprunter de l'argent aux groupes. D'autres groupes vont se former bientôt. Les femmes disent en coeur: "Nous faisons cela pour laisser ces projets à nos enfants. Nous aimerions qu'ils reprennent le flambeau, qu'ils ne rejoignent pas les communautés urbaines où la vie est bien plus difficile." ❍

Español

A simple vista parece ser un poblado africano pequeño pero no es sinó un recinto de mineros. Sus habitantes llevan un estilo de vida diferente a los otros poblados aledaños. Quinientas personas viven en este recinto ubicado en la zona central de Zimbabwe. Muchos de sus ancestros inmigraron del Zambia, Malawi y Mozambique para trabajar en las minas. Costumbres y religiones diferentes coexisten en armonía en este lugar.

Nehanda y tres minas pequeñas están rodeadas por zonas de recolonización. El Gobierno ha adquirido las tierras de ciertos hacendados blancos y ha hecho que los campesinos de otras tierras comunales superpobladas, quienes viven principalmente de la agricultura y de la cría del ganado, se instalen aquí. Pero para la gente de Nehanda, el único medio de subsistencia son sus actividades mineras. La explotación del cromo da magros beneficios y la necesidad del dinero trae consecuencias nefastas para la salud y la educación de sus habitantes.

Muchas mujeres, en vez de estar ociosas en casa, ayudan a sus esposos en las minas pero no obtienen ninguna remuneración. Algunas de ellas no están incluidas en el Comité que dirige y toma las decisiones en el recinto. Así fue que una organización encargada de reunir a las cooperativas nuevas de Zimbabwe decide asignar a dos promotores VNU DDS para que ayuden a estas comunidades a mejorar sus condiciones de vida.

Cuando Betty Lupobe de 26 años, originaria de Zambia llegó a Nehanda en Agosto del 89, muchos escépticos se preguntaban que podría enseñarles una mujer tan joven!. Ella comienza primero con una encuesta de casa en casa para conocer los problemas de la comunidad y las habilidades de los habitantes. El hecho de hablar la misma lengua le hace ganarse la confianza de sus moradores. Poco después se reúnen para dilucidar estos problemas. Betty propone la idea de formar grupos para realizar ciertas actividades generadoras de ingresos. "Fue extremadamente difícil pero maravilloso al mismo tiempo formar

parte de este proceso", nos confía Betty.

John Jali, Secretario de uno de los grupos nos dijo: "No sabíamos cómo establecer grupos ni qué actividades emprender. Betty nos ayudó a realizarlas".

Los grupos se formaron espontáneamente. Por ejemplo, unas 30 mujeres y un hombre vinieron hacia ella con 4 dólares de EE.UU. cada uno para compartir los gastos de participación y formaron el grupo Kumboedza que quiere decir "trataremos". Algunas mujeres comenzaron por tejer y coser ropa para destinarla a la venta. Betty y el único hombre del grupo, experto en el arte del tejido enseñaron al resto de las mujeres.

Otros miembros del grupo Kubatana que significa "solidaridad" donaron 8 dólares cada uno y con ese dinero comenzaron a incrementar sus utilidades comprando ganado y vendiendo su carne. Esto originó un proyecto de carnicería y cría de pollos. Betty está muy satisfecha de los resultados obtenidos y dice: "estas actividades serán muy importantes el día en que la mina no pueda explotarse más".

Las noticias sobre los grandes cambios en Nehanda se extendieron rápidamente. Betty comenzó a recibir cartas de las coooperativas de otras regiones mineras solicitándole ayuda. Ella usó la bicicleta para transportarse a los sitios que podía y para aquellos más lejanos les aseguró que otra promotora DDS iría próximamente a ayudarles.

Muchos no quisieron esperar. En una visita que ella efectuó a Kushinga, a 10 Kms. de Nehanda, Betty les explicó cómo constituir un grupo. Tres meses después Betty se enteraba que las mujeres en Kushinga habían formado un grupo, construyeron un horno y recogieron 100 dólares vendiendo bollos. "Me quedé muy impresionada, ellas lograron hacerlo en tres meses y por sí solas!".

Muchos otros proyectos se han puesto en marcha y para examinar los resultados obtenidos así como para discutir los planes futuros, Betty organizó una reunión de trabajo en la cual también participaron recintos vecinos. Algunos grupos se fusionaron para lanzar un proyecto de árboles de caucho. Este tipo de árboles crece muy rápido y se venden fácilmente para ser usados en las vigas de las minas. El dinero se obtendrá del "Africa 2000", un fondo que el PNUD ha puesto a disposición de las ONG y de los grupos comunitarios para proteger el medio ambiente. El programa VNU/DDS apoya estos intercambios: "cuando la gente comparte sus recursos y conocimientos, adquieren más fuerza para expresar sus necesidades a los organismos externos". En el lapso de 18 meses los grupos de Nehanda se han convertido en una fuerza móvil para acciones comunitarias. Las mujeres ahora toman parte en las decisiones tanto dentro de sus propios grupos como en aquellos formados por los hombres.

El problema crónico de la falta de dinero se ha atenuado: las cooperativas y los individuos pueden efectuar préstamos a los grupos. Nuevos grupos van a constituirse muy pronto para ejercer actividades similares. Las mujeres dicen en conjunto: "Hemos hecho esto para legar los proyectos a nuestros hijos. Deseamos que ellos continúen trabajando en estos proyectos y que no vayan a buscar trabajo a la ciudad donde la vida es aún más dura!". ❍

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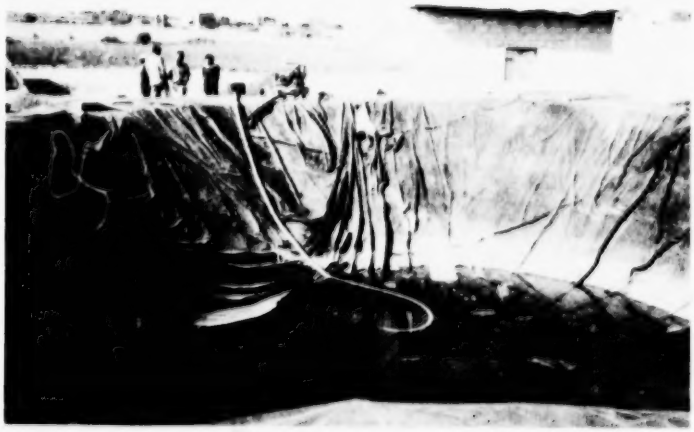
PEACE CORPS' 30TH ANNIVERSARY

One of the many stands in a marquee at the U.S. Peace Corps' 30th Anniversary celebrations in Washington D.C. (photo 1) at the beginning of August, promoted UNV. It was staffed by Rhonda Trad (photo 2, right), UNV Co-ordinator at the Peace Corps Headquarters, together with former UNV Programme Officer in Papua New Guinea, Tom Carmody, currently working with the Programme Strategy and Evaluation Division of UNV, Geneva and Troy Engle (photo 2, middle), also a former UNV from PNG. They received plenty of questions - and a number of very good candidatures from the few thousand returned PCVs who attended. ❍

GREENING THE YEMEN



Gasm El Said Khalid Khalfalla was until recently a UNV in the Republic of Yemen. Besides compiling comprehensive data regarding all seed nurseries in the country and training a Yemeni colleague in designing, budgeting, implementing and maintaining city parks and trees for street-scapes, he was Co-ordinator between Yemeni nationals and the Japan International Co-operation Agency in a project for the Yemen Greenery Centres - which the UNV saw as in their way part of the Green Revolution.

"How can we green the Yemen?" was a question he tackled from the scientific, economic and environmental standpoints. Amongst the obstacles he diagnosed were salinity, incompatibility of equipment donated to the different nurseries by different countries (and lack of spare parts), the remoteness of some of the nurseries and their administration by different institutions, the need for intensive training, and lack of tools, transport and a library.

Nevertheless, UNV Khalfalla seemed to have made a good start. The photos show him in discussion with a skilled Yemeni labourer in one of the project's several greenhouses (photo 1): their artificial reservoir to supplement well water (photo 2); and flourishing flowers (carnations and chrysantemums) grown for beautification of Sana'a Airport and various streets and Government buildings (photos 3 and 4). ☐

UNV STATISTICS

The statistics of serving UN Volunteer Specialists, including DDS Field Workers, as of 31 July 1991, were as follows:

UNVs in service (Male = 1633; Female = 392)	**2,025**	
UNVs en route to assignment	181	
Posts under recruitment	300	
Total, established posts, therefore	**2,506**	
Volunteers' movements during July 1991:		
Assigned	57	
Completing contract	106	
Early terminations	7	
Renewals	45	
Countries where UNVs are serving	**117**	
Developing country nationalities of UNVs	79	
Industrialised country nationalities of UNVs	26	
Stateless	2	
Total, nationalities of serving UNVs	**107**	
UNVs, nationals of developing countries	**1,703**	**(84.1%)**
UNVs, nationals of industrialised countries	**320**	**(15.8%)**
Stateless	**2**	**(0.1%)**
Regions in which UNVs are serving :		
Africa: UNV Specialists - 43 countries	873	(43.1%)
PDP/DDS FieldWorkers - 17 countries	143	(7.1%)
	1,016	(50.2%)
Arab States & Europe		
UNV Specialists - 18 countries	205	(10.1%)
PDP/DDS FieldWorkers - 1 country	3	(0.2%)
	208	(10.3%)
Asia & Pacific		
UNV Specialists - 33 countries	497	(24.5%)
PDP/DDS FieldWorkers - 13 countries	161	(8.0%)
	658	(32.5%)
Latin America & Caribbean		
UNV Specialists - 23 countries	143	(7.0 %)
Largest UNV "mainstream" programmes:		
Afghanistan	76	
Bhutan	66	
Yemen	63	
Fiji	53	
Niger	53	
Namibia	52	

GULF UPDATE

In the last issue of UNV News, we reported on the unique contribution UNV has made to the UN Humanitarian Relief programme in the Persian Gulf region. Though the emergency has settled, UNV assistance in the Gulf continues at a growing pace.

As the refugees who fled Iraq and Kuwait six months ago slowly return back to their homeland, it has been the UN's job to ensure that all facets of their plight and return journey are attended to. For instance, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) oversees the movement and transportation of the people, the World Food Programme (WFP) delivers essential food aid, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) meets basic medicine, water and sanitation needs, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) oversees the entire operation. To carry out these tasks, experienced people are needed.

Thus far the front-line UN Agencies have requested the services of 81 UNV Specialists to assist in the implementa-

Mohamed S. Islam, from Bangladesh, is a UNV/WFP Food Aid Monitor in Arbil, Northern Iraq. He is seen here (left, with Kevin Gilroy) with Peshmergas and Iraqi Government Officials distributing food to the displaced people.

Youssef Tayeh, from Lebanon, is a UNV Water Sanitation Engineer working with UNICEF in the Panjwin Camp, North East of Iraq, along the Iranian border. He (third from right) is discussing with displaced people the severe water shortage problem.

tion of their programmes. In response, UNV has fielded 56 UNV Specialists , and has identified and placed en route the balance of the manpower needs. By October, UNV will have met all of the requests, and no doubt, will have been asked to meet even further needs.

Upon return from a recent mission to Iraq, Kevin Gilroy of UNV Headquarters reported that the UN Agencies felt the UNV Specialists thus far in the field were playing "major to key" roles in each Agency's programme. For example, a retired senior UN official from Australia, Mr. Roy Skinner, is presently acting as the Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Baghdad, Philippos Papaphillipou from Greece is acting as the Executive Assistant to the UN Coordinator in Baghdad, the nine UNVs attached to WFP are each coordinating regional level food supply delivery, Dr. Edwin McClain from the United States is acting as the assistant to the IOM Representative in Baghdad.

With the bulk of the programme now in Iraq, and given that the emergency is somewhat abated, UNV is now preparing to assist the Agencies in the longer term relief and rehabilitation phases aimed at alleviating the catastrophic socio-economic conditions of the civilian population in post-war Iraq.

The overall experience in the Gulf shows that UNV has the capacity to respond to its UN Agency partners' needs under emergency circumstances, and in doing so, plays an active and important role. More important of course, is the actual field work of the UNV Specialists themselves, who working under precarious and rough living conditions, have directly helped to ensure that the plight of those affected by the acts of war are made to feel secure, cared for, fed and clothed. ❍

(viene de la pág. 20)

técnicos.

Este proyecto ha desempeñado un papel catalítico y ha hecho que otros organismos intervengan y colaboren en la realización de este proyecto.

Incluso, el proyecto ha despertado interés y ha establecido una colaboración estrecha con otros servicios relacionados. Este proyecto totalmente adaptado a las necesidades locales, ha permitido el abastecimiento de agua a zonas muy alejadas y a menudo desprivilegiadas. Tres escuelas se inaugurarán proximamente, los parques enverdecen con rapidez y la población semi-nómada encuentra nuevamente agua en el camino.

El agua es un factor elemental para el desarrollo y su disponibilidad en las condiciones de vida de las tribus pastorales y agrícolas ha suscitado una gran alegría. ❍

UNV IN THE HEADLINES

Voluntarios de ONU para un mundo mejor

Si el deseo de servir a los demás es tan antiguo como la humanidad, es a esta locución que el programa VNU rinde homenaje.

Creado en 1970 y operando bajo la administración global del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD), el programa VNU se ha convertido para las Naciones Unidas en el principal proveedor de especialistas de nivel medio y superior, profesionales que trabajan en estrecha colaboración con sus homólogos nacionales en los países donde son asignados y que, asumismo, contribuyen a su formación.

El Programa de Voluntarios de Naciones Unidas es el único programa multilateral de desarrollo a nivel mundial especializado en voluntariado. la mayoría de las organizaciones de voluntariado, tales como las "Association Francaise des volontaires du progres" (AFVP) o AGBL en Francia o la Organizacion VSO en Gran Bretana, o el Cuerpo de Paz en los Estados Unidos, envían a sus agentes de desarrollo originarios de países industrializados —el programa VNU complementa esto con los tres cuartos de sus especialistas originarios de los mismos países en desarrollo.

Trabajando tanto en pueblos pequeños o zonas aisladas como en las grandes metrópolis y respondiendo de esa manera a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo, los especialistas VNU demuestran un alto grado de responsabilidad y motivación, inherentes al servicio voluntario. Además el hecho de haber escogido trabajar como VNU no es sino el primer paso que han dado hacia esa etapa de preparación que les llevará a desempeñar una labor más útil una vez de regreso a sus países, al estar mejor preparados y capacitados profesionalmente para participar al proceso del desarrollo socio-económico de su propio país.

El programa VNU festeja este a[illegible] versario. Lo que empezó en 1971 [illegible]

La Prensa (Ecuador)

UN helping out in health sector

WHETHER or not foreign health specialists will be the best medicine for this country's health sector ills is the issue being discussed by government and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) officials, who are putting together a plan to give this country more doctors and nurses.

The UNV programme is the foremost supplier of international professionals and government representatives.

Once it is settled that there is a need for more doctors and nurses in this country, a number of middle and upper level health professionals will be made available to the Mount Hope Medical Complex and Port of Spain and San Fernando general hospitals.

According to the UNV's programme officer, Jesus Corral Fuentes, priority will be given to [illegible] Mount Hope. These instructions came from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), he said.

Through [illegible] widewide network of contacts, the

Cook Islands News

تقويم نشاط الخبراء المتطوعين في الجمهورية

عدن سبأ: التقى الاخ عبدالله سعيد عبدين / وكيل وزارة التخطيط والتنمية فرع عدن امس الاول مع ممثلة برنامج الامم المتحدة للمتطوعين مرتيلسة فرانك ادس مدير برامج التقييم

وتم في اللقاء بحث تقييم مستوى نشاط الخبراء المتطوعين العاملين في الجمهورية اليمنية وخاصة في المحافظات الجنوبية والشرقية وكذا التعرف على الاحتياجات التنموية للمحافظات الجنوبية والشرقية من الخبراء المتطوعين بالمرحلة القادمة

كما تم بحث التطور الذي طرأ على العلاقة بين برنامج الامم المتحدة للمتطوعين والجمهورية اليمنية وسبل تطويره في كافة المجالات وقد استعرض الاخ عبدالله عدن دور منظمة الامم المتحدة خاصة برنامج المتطوعين من خلال العلاقة الجيدة والجهود التي يبذلها البرنامج مؤكدا الاستفادة من هذه الجهود وما حققه الاخوة المتطوعين في الجمهورية اليمنية لشتى هذه الخبرات التنموية للاقاليم

Al Thawra (Yemen)

Milkfish in abundance

If Toshio Mihara has anything to do with it, Aitutaki lagoon will be teaming with milkfish in less than a year.

A UN volunteer who has just spent the last year in Mitiaro filling up Te Rotonui lake with fish and building an access road to the lake (as now in Aitutaki on a similar project - but without the road construction part).

"It was hard work putting in a kilometre of road from Parua, it all had to be done manually with the help of the community" he said.

Once the road was completed, the work could begin to [illegible] 5,000 two centi[illegible] fish w[illegible]

Manuhiki in chilly bins.

They were placed in an old bath and fed a diet of crushed pig pellets, coconut and tilapia fish mixed together.

When they were big enough they were moved to the lake where they were protected from the large number of eels by large cage nets. They were fed the same feed on trays for two months by which time they had grown to six centimetres.

After six months in this protective environment the now 30cm long fishy are ready for release to feed on the plankton and algae that grow abundantly at the bottom of the lake.

At one year the milkfish have grown to 50cms, so they are very fast growing and ready for the table in no time.

It is Toshio's hope to breed 2,000 milkfish a month from the hatchery at Aitutaki where he is working in order to build up the stocks in Mitiaro.

Stocks of mullet and freshwater prawn have also been built up in Mitiaro. The fish is meant for local markets and as baitfish for tuna fishing.

The project aims to establish distribution bases in Aitutaki and Rarotonga with costs estimated at $11,300 to set up a base in Rarotonga.

Christine Hatcher

Trinidad Express

China Daily

Chinese youth join UN volunteer plan

by our staff reporter
Wang Rong

Chinese youth scored a "first" last year by joining their foreign counterparts in one of United Nations cross-border volunteer programmes in Asian countries.

Ten youth workers from different provinces, all around the age of 30, were recruited as grassroots volunteers of the Asian Regional Domestic Development Service (DDS) pro-

"The field workers' role is to get up and assist local development in general," Chen said. "But of course they have first to gain the trust and respect of the people they work with and for."

According to Chen, up to now the 10 have been getting on well with their jobs, which are similar to what they do in China. But it is clear from

East Kent Gazette (U.K.)

The world is his oyster

A FORMER Border Grammar School boy has been taking about life in China's capital city as an English tutor with the United Nations Volunteer Service.

...WHO'S WHO AT HQ...WHO'S WHO AT HQ...WHO'S WHO AT HQ...

Bouri Sanhouidi, originaire du Burkina Faso, arrive du Bénin pour prendre ses fonctions à la tête de la Section Afrique, Division des programmes au siège du programme des VNU.

Titulaire d'une maîtrise en économie rurale de l'Université Laval, Québec, Canada, M. Sanhouidi a commencé sa carrière au PNUD en mai 1981 comme JPO au Bureau du PNUD à Dakar, Sénégal, après avoir travaillé au Bureau de l'USAID, à Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso à la Division des programmes.

De 1983 à 1985, il a servi au sein du Fonds d'équipement des Nations Unies d'abord à New York, puis en Guinée avant d'occuper le poste d'Administrateur de programme à New York. En 1985, il est affecté au Zaïre comme Assistant au Représentant résident avant de prendre son poste de Représentant résident adjoint au Bénin en 1988.

Anna Coulibaly, de nationalité malienne, a commencé au PNUD en 1983 comme JPO de l'ONUDI en Guinée après avoir obtenu un Diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées (DESS) en sciences économiques à l'Université de Paris X, Nanterre.

Elle a ensuite été transférée au Rwanda où elle a travaillé de 1984 en 1988 comme JPO puis comme Administrateur de programme. Avant de prendre ses fonctions comme Administrateur régional, Section Afrique, au siège du programme des VNU, elle était Assistante au Représentant résident au Burkina Faso.

Anne-Marie Bekaert, de nationalité canadienne, est arrivée au programme des VNU en avril dernier. Elle occupe le poste d'agent de planification dans la Division des ressources du recrutement.

Après plusieurs années d'expérience dans l'enseignement technique et dans le secteur privé, Anne-Marie a servi pendant trois ans en tant qu'aide sociale volontaire auprès des enfants défavorisés du Costa Rica et d'Haïti. Au Canada, elle a assumé, durant ces sept dernières années, diverses fonctions d'agent de projets pour l'Entraide universitaire mondiale du Canada (EUMC), une ONG en développement international spécialisée dans le domaine de l'éducation. Anne-Marie est diplômée de l'Université d'Ottawa en littérature française et religions comparées.

Executive Co-ordinator:
Brenda Gael McSweeney

Editor-in-Chief:
Bill Jackson

Photo Editor:
Gilles Reboux

Editorial Co-ordination, and Lay-out:
Françoise Arnould

Spanish Translation, and Circulation:
Eva Leon Hing

DTP Supervision, and Print-buying:
Chinta Rajap

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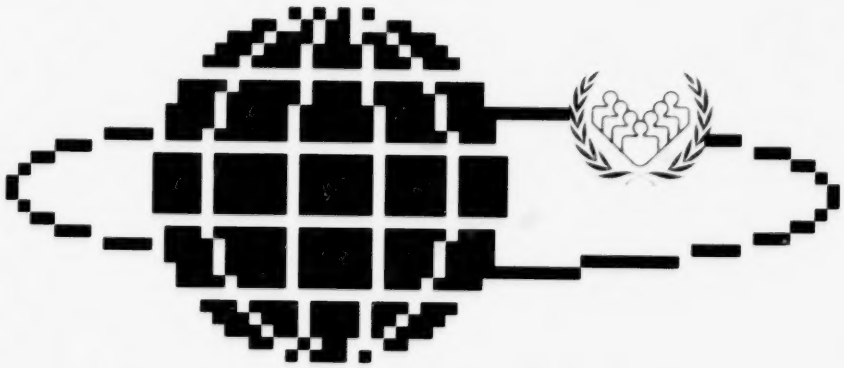

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Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10,
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***Cover Photo**: Mrs. Masire lays the foundation stone of a day-care centre in Banju village, Tanzania, helped by UNV Programme Officer Stephen Ogundipe.*